the spoon with which you had eaten your soup & put it into a dish of sweet without any washing or wiping. Then a chicken which was torn with one's fingers as usual, then another dish of milk & rice, then salad then a very nice sort of pancake, and then still another of meat. Behind each one of us stood a man with a glass and water jar, to give you water and take the tumbler from you again. And one thing I forgot, before you were asked to sit down at the table a servant went round carrying a copper basin in one hand & pitcher in the other, you held your hands over the basin which he poured water over them, and a second servant gave you a fresh towel which he carried over his arm. This same ceremony of washing the hands was gone through with after dinner, with the addition of soap, which I assure you was needed as your hands were in a state of "need" & grease, curious to behold. All through the dinner we had Arab music. four performers two on instruments something like violins with two strings, each one made of eight horse hairs, & two others, one called a Tarabouka or native drum# & another like a tambourine without the cymbals

Teste No. 2

"And then comes the Fantasia which was very funny and very entertaining too. Our host was present at our fireworks & "spree" (to use a most improper word) in the temple, and when we were ready to start, we found horses waiting for some of us, upon one of which the "Hakeem" (or Dr Gray) was mounted, Colonel Legge on another some of us took our donkeys & our old consul & his son with one of the English gentlemen walked. We only went a little distance from the temple to the village of Karnak, turned a sharp corner came to an open doorway which looked humble & poor, turned into it, rode a few steps & were in a very large open court yard round three sides of which ran an earthen divan, upon which were placed cushions both upon & lean against. We were introduced to our host, & then asked politely to take seats which we did & were presented to Sheik Yoosuf who has a very sweet face & pleasant manners. After a few minutes they began to spread the mats on the floor in front of us, the old host, with true Eastern simplicity, helping to spread them himself. then two little stands were brought about two feet high, with four legs so that they stood securely, & then two large round tin trays were placed upon them, cushions put round for us owe were asked with. At one table were the Host, Mr Eaton, Colonel Legge Dr Gray, General Loring. The Consul & the Governor at the other, Mrs Loring, Miss Howland, the two Miss Schuylers, Mr Baird, Sheik Yoosuf, Saed the Consul's son & myself. At each of our places was a big spoon and a large piece of bread. First came soup, put on in a small bowl in the centre, into which we dipped our spoons all together & ate at once. It was rather greasy and not very nice. Then about a quarter of a sheep with the head & all in the dish, at which we all looked in a mild despair, but Saed (who sat next to me) said "must eat Arab fashion when you dine with Arab", upon which he put his hands into the dish took a large piece which he tore in fragments & gave a large portion to each one of us. I had had some practice in eating with my fingers with the Crew, & did not mind it quite so much as I should have otherwise; still it did come rather hard to take a large handful of mutton & pull it into bits and eat, & then what made it worse, was that Yoosuf & Saed kept giving each one of us titbits which were considered nice, and it is entirely against Arab courtesy to refuse, and I unfortunately had the tongue given to me, which I had politely to take each part of. Then came 11 (eleven) dishes following one another with great rapidity. Some of meat, & some sweet. Next to the lamb, came I think as nearly as I can now recollect, mutton with tomatoes & onions, then sausages with onions, then liver with raisins then a dish of rice & milk, delicious, but what was rather hard, was that you had to take or whatever you choose to call those little brass things that go round the edge. The music was good & spirited, well played & with considerable harmony. After we had finished our dinner we were asked to sit up on the divans again & then the court yard did look so very prettily. It did not look so very large but there, in one part were all the donkeys & horses that had brought us, & in front of them, squatting in [illegible] various attitudes all of them picturesque, were the donkey boys & about 200 villagers; in another corner were the tables with our servants & Antonio having their dinner & the servants of our ~~servants~~ host standing behind with the water, and then more villagers in another corner & on the divan the Howafii ~~little~~. & gentlemen, & next to them the musicians playing with all their hearts; while in front sat the Consul & the Howafii; & over the wall appeared the heads of the poor Hareem; all of these picturesque & curious things lighted up by the lovely moon light streaming down upon them & large cauldrons. In a few minutes came four dancing girls headed by a sort of duenna. two of whom only danced, who are always brought in on such occasions. They are a peculiar caste in themselves & are the only women in Egypt who are allowed to unveil their faces. They wear all their fortunes on their bodies, some of it in big gold necklaces, some in coins attached to their hair & anklets bracelets &c. They wear light calico dresses with tight sleeves, but their faces are hard, ugly & old & their lives are not such as to make them look either lovely, gentle or good. Their dancing consists in simply shaking their bodies standing first on one foot then on the other and is extremely disgusting. As soon as the dance was finished we came home, riding in the moonlight between the crops & I liked it much; and so ended an Arab feast & an enjoyable day. Very curious, but nice to see once"